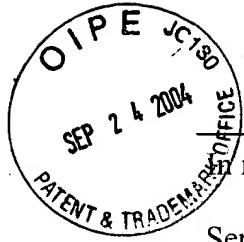


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PATENT



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

re application of: **Mehta et al.**

Examiner: **MCGARRY, SEAN**

Serial No.: **09/315,292**

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For: **COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR PULMONARY DELIVERY OF  
NUCLEIC ACIDS**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O.Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on March 24, 2004, in connection with the above-identified patent application, Applicants file a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) along with following amendments to the application.